

Message Text

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R 192337Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION PROJECT

1. PENNSYLVANIA'S AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR KLINE RECENTLY DECIDED TO SPONSOR A CONGRESS OF WORLD UNITY AND BROTHERHOOD TO BE CONVENED IN PHILADELPHIA IN JULY, 1976. INITIAL PLANNING ENVISIONS ATTENDANCE OF APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED DISTINGUISHED PHILOSOPHICAL, SPIRITUAL, LITERARY AND OTHER LEADERS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD FOR PURPOSE OF (A) FOSTERING WORLD-WIDE RECOGNITION OF UNITY OF MANKIND AND (B) HOPEFULLY ORGANIZING CONGRESS ON PERMANENT BASIS TO MEET PERHAPS EVERY FIVE YEARS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD.

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2. DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONGRESS IS UNDER AUSPICES OF A

NEW ORGANIZATION ENTITLED WORLD UNITED, INC., LOCATED IN PHILADELPHIA. TWO CATHOLIC PRIESTS, REV. GUY MERVEILLE AND REV. A. WILLIAM SABATINO, ARE THE PRINCIPAL ORGANIZERS. PROJECT HAS ATTRACTED ASSISTANCE OF GAYLORD HARNWELL, PRESIDENT-EMERITUS OF UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA; JOHN BUNTING, PHILADELPHIA BICENTENNIAL CIVIC LEADER AND BANK PRESIDENT, AND NORMAN COUSINS AMONG OTHERS. PROJECT IS ESSENTIALLY NON-GOVERNMENTAL IN NATURE EVEN THOUGH SPONSORED BY PENNSYLVANIA BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION. PARTICIPANTS WILL ATTEND IN PERSONAL CAPACITY, NOT AS GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES.

3. REVS. MERVEILLE AND SABATINO HAVE INITIATED A PRELIMINARY TOUR IN THE NEAR EAST AND EUROPE TO MAKE INITIAL CONTACTS WITH PROSPECTIVE PARTICIPANTS AND DEVELOP INTEREST IN CONGRESS. THEY HAVE ALREADY VISITED ISTANBUL, CAIRO, NICOSIA AND TEL AVIV. DEPARTMENT HAS JUST BEEN INFORMED THAT THEY WERE TO BE IN GENEVA JULY 15-19. THEY ARE SCHEDULED TO VISIT SCANDINAVIA, PRESUMABLY STOCKHOLM, JULY 19-25, ATHENS JULY 25-29 AND LONDON JULY 29-AUG 4. FOLLOWING LONDON VISIT SABATINO RETURNS TO US AND MERVEILLE CONTINUES ON TO BRUSSELS, HOLLAND, LUXEMBOURG AND AUSTRIA (NO DATES AVAILABLE). ORIGINAL ITINERARY INCLUDED VISITS IN EASTERN EUROPE WHICH APPARENTLY HAVE BEEN POSTPONED INDEFINITELY IN FAVOR OF CITIES LISTED HEREIN.

4. DEPARTMENT IS SUPPORTIVE OF BICENTENNIAL EFFORTS OF STATE COMMISSIONS PARTICULARLY IN RESPECT TO PROJECTS IN FURTHERANCE OF CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING. WILL THEREFORE APPRECIATE ANY COURTESIES POSTS MAY APPROPRIATELY EXTEND. WILL ALSO APPRECIATE POSTS REPORT ANY INFO DERIVED FROM VISIT. RUSH

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